

OPINION 1779

Potamolithus* Pilsbry & Rush, 1896 (Mollusca, Gastropoda): placed on the Official List with *Paludina lapidum* d'Orbigny, 1835 as the type species*Ruling**

(1) The name *Potamolithus* Pilsbry & Rush, 1896 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Clench (1948) *Paludina lapidum* d'Orbigny, 1835, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(2) The name *lapidum* d'Orbigny, 1835, as published in the binomen *Paludina lapidum* (specific name of the type species of *Potamolithus* Pilsbry & Rush, 1896) and as defined by the lectotype (specimen no. 1854.12.4.339 in the d'Orbigny collection in the Natural History Museum, London) designated by Pons da Silva & Davis (1983), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2801

An application for the confirmation of *Potamolithus rushii* Pilsbry, 1896 as the accepted type species of *Potamolithus* Pilsbry, 1896 (December) was received from Drs Maria F. Lopez Armengol and Miguel O. Manceñido (*Universidad Nacional de La Plata, La Plata, Argentina*) on 23 November 1990. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 49: 109–111 (June 1992). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

An opposing comment from Dr Alan R. Kabat (*National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*) was published in BZN 50: 52 (March 1993), together with a reply by the authors of the application. Dr Kabat pointed out that there was a valid type species designation for *Potamolithus* Pilsbry & Rush, 1896 (November) by Clench (1948), who had designated *Paludina lapidum* d'Orbigny, 1835. Dr Kabat subsequently noted (in litt., April and November 1993) that he (Kabat & Hershler, 1993, p. 44) had cited *P. lapidum* as the type species of *Potamolithus*, following Clench's designation, as had (acting on his advice) Hershler & Thompson (1992, p. 129).

A comment from Dr Maria Christina Pons da Silva (*Museu de Ciências Naturais, Porto Alegre, Brazil*) in support of the type species designation for *Potamolithus* of *P. rushii* was published in BZN 50: 228 (September 1993).

Hershler, R. & Thompson, F.G. 1992. A review of the aquatic gastropod subfamily Cochliopinae (Prosobranchia: Hydrobiidae). *Malacological Review*, Supplement 5.

Kabat, A.R. & Hershler, R. 1993. The prosobranch snail family Hydrobiidae (Gastropoda: Rissooidea): review of classification and supraspecific taxa. *Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology*, 547: 1–94.

A revised version of the original proposals, seeking to set aside Clench's (1948) designation of *Paludina lapidum* d'Orbigny, 1835 as the type species of *Potamolithus* Pilsbry & Rush, 1896 and to designate *P. rushii* Pilsbry, 1896 as the type, was offered for voting.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 1994 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the revised proposals. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 1994 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 12: Bock, Bouchet, Corliss, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahner, Nielsen, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Trjapitzin, Willink

Negative votes — 14: Bayer, Cocks, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Lehtinen, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nye, Štys and Thompson.

No votes were received from Cogger and Uéno.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Voting in favour of the designation of *Potamolithus rushii* Pilsbry, 1896 as the type species, Bouchet commented: 'I consider that I am following Pilsbry's intention when he introduced the name *Potamolithus*. It is clear from Pilsbry's December 1896 paper that Pilsbry regarded the November paper as a preview of his ideas. The November footnote confirms this' (para. 1 of the application). Voting against, Dupuis commented that Kabat had spoken convincingly for the acceptance of *P. lapidum* d'Orbigny, 1835 as the type species of *Potamolithus*; the species was included in the genus by Pilsbry & Rush (1896) and had been designated as the type in 1948. The applicants had not opposed this designation. Hahn commented: 'Specialists do not agree in this case; therefore it may be better to follow the Code and to accept *P. lapidum* as the type species of *Potamolithus*'. Holthuis commented: 'Since the applicants had noted (BZN 50: 53) that 'the two alternatives do not entail substantially different immediate consequences', it would be unforgivable to use the plenary powers in this case'. Kabata commented: 'Clench's (1948) type species designation was valid and setting it aside would be justified only if its acceptance seriously threatened nomenclatural stability. In spite of Dr Pons da Silva's comment, I do not see it as anything but a small perturbation (if any)'. Nye commented: 'As the publication of this case has brought to light a valid type species designation that does not upset stability there is no need for the Commission to invoke the use of the plenary powers and therefore it should not do so'. Štys commented: 'I cannot see why a perfectly clear nomenclatural situation should be interfered with, and why the straightforward application of the Code should not be observed'.

Since the majority required to set aside Clench's (1948) type species designation was not reached, this remains the valid designation and *Paludina lapidum* is the type species of *Potamolithus* Pilsbry & Rush, 1896.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present opinion:

lapidum, *Paludina*, d'Orbigny, 1835, *Magasin de Zoologie*, Classe 5 (Mollusques), 5(62): 29.
Potamolithus Pilsbry & Rush, 1896 (November), *The Nautilus*, 10(7): 80.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Paludina lapidum* d'Orbigny, 1835 as the type species of the nominal genus *Potamolithus* Pilsbry & Rush, 1896:

Clench, W.J. 1948. *The Nautilus*, 61(3): 105.

The following is the reference for the designation of the lectotype of *Paludina lapidum* d'Orbigny, 1835:

Pons da Silva, M.C. & Davis, G.M. 1983. *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, 135: 143.